

## SPORT

## Magnificent mudlarks

Any lingering doubts that Galvin's departure to the lush pastures of White Hart Lane might have left Goole Town up the Premier creek were quickly dispelled at the Pleasure Grounds on Saturday.

Indeed, the absence of Galvin seems to have given the whole team a much needed incentive and collective sense of purpose. As a team, Town have rediscovered their former aggression and will to win, and individually there were some exhilarating performances, particularly from Taylor who was in vintage form.

Kicking Wycombe never promised to be the easiest of tasks especially as a chartered train load of their supporters almost outnumbered the home crowd. The playing surface was made atrocious by a prolonged downpour and only the Herculean efforts of the groundstaff made any kind of play possible at all.

Town adapted well to the conditions, with full backs, Jackson and Williams playing the long ball accurately and effectively. Williams supplied Green in the tenth minute and when his marker Birdseye, slipped on the mud, the Goole

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striker raced down the park and passed to Kelly whose shot was parried by Spittle.

Wycombe, however, were not short of attacking flair either. The perceptive Hollifield lobbed a magnificent 80-yard shot past the struggling White, after 21 minutes. The ball trickled in off the post but Town gained a somewhat fortunate reprieve when referee, Mr Kiely, blew for offside. Odds were evened in the second half when a thunderous volley from Kelly was disallowed.

Green sensibly played a roving role, not afraid to take men on and making a lot of positive running both on the flanks and from midfield. Whiteley and Sellers kept up the supply from the back and Thompson won what needed to be won in the air, coming close with a header from a Whiteley corner.

Wilson and Jennings were strong and agile in defence, containing the Wycombe breaks. Jackson was sharp in the tackle and very quick in interception, despite an early injury which required the trainer's attention. He was also eager to go forward and on more than one

occasion tore the Wycombe defence asunder with an intelligent pass. A cunning bending shot almost earned him a goal in the 84th minute.

But his goal was not long in coming. The effervescent Green was moving too quickly for the Wycombe defence and when Phillips smashed into him in the 42nd minute, the referee immediately awarded a penalty. Jackson calmly strode up and powered his kick home, before Spittle even had time to think about diving into the mud.

The goal came at the right psychological moment. Wycombe emerged a dispirited side after the interval but Town were rampant. Taylor tormented Davies and Mead with incredible pace and close control on the mud and seemed to get faster as the Southerners wilted. He also paid the penalty for skill — on his shins. Mead was perhaps fortunate not to be booked but Taylor set up the second goal in the 68th minute, passing to Thompson who confidently rounded Spittle and slotted home.

Wycombe missed a relatively easy chance when Horseman floated a

menacing cross which no one made use of, but at the other end Spittle miraculously managed to palm a Green chip over the bar.

Wycombe fought back valiantly and only two excellent saves by White denied Horseman and Kennedy. Their eventual goal came through an unfortunate deflection by Whiteley from an Evans cross.

Ten minutes were left and the Southerners found new breath. They attacked relentlessly. White dived courageously to save from Kennedy and minutes later he produced another magnificent save from Hollifield.

Williams and Green were both booked in somewhat mysterious circumstances. The Wycombe revival proved a fitting climax to a thrilling cup-tie. Had the weather been less inclement, it might have produced more skill and better football, but the crowd were well entertained and all 22 players earned their money sloshing about in the mud and rain. Goole were worthy winners.

Town: White, Jackson, Williams, Wilson, Jennings, Sellers, Whiteley, Kelly, Green, Thompson, Taylor. Sub.: Lloyd.

## Hooligan ban? Sports letter

Town's heartening display on the mud against Wycombe augurs well both for their future in the F.A. Trophy and for an improvement in their league position where the backlog of fixtures is steadily building up.

The general behaviour of the 600 Wycombe fans was impeccable, which makes the sporadic outbreaks of thuggery all the more saddening.

"I thought the Wycombe fans were great," commented Goole manager Alan Turner. His own view on the hooligans and how to get rid of them was typically forthright: "Surely there is a field in Goole where these characters can beat hell out of each other at 3 p.m. on Saturdays. They do not come to watch the football, and this is a situation that the club cannot tolerate."

It is as well to put the recent violence into perspective. The Goole club usually has no problems with hooligans. The clashes at Tom Wilson's testimonial game were caused by the meeting of the small moronic fringes of genuine Manchester and Leeds United fans.

A similar caucus of puerile idiots was attracted to the F.A. Trophy game. Neither group regularly attends Town's league fixtures and thus these outbreaks can be seen as exceptional.

But they do deter ordinary supporters from attending and therefore some kind of action is desirable. Club officials are considering imposing a ban on any known troublemakers, working in conjunction with the police, and the employment of club stewards, suggested in a letter on this page, is also worthy of consideration.

Whatever the club decides, any measures should be implemented before Town's third round home tie against Merthyr Tydfil on February 26. Merthyr have a strong young side who play Wrexham in the quarter-final of the Welsh Cup at Wrexham on Tuesday. Their two oldest players are only 28 and 29 and the side's fine cup form this year has a lot to do with the arrival of midfield player Ian Docherty earlier this season from Albion Rovers of the Scottish second Division.

Merthyr are placed about midway in the Southern League first division, with plenty of games in hand over higher clubs. They trounced Gravesend and Northfleet of the SFL Premier Division, 4-0 in the last round, but that was at home. They might find the going a little tougher at Goole.

Meanwhile Town have their own gruelling league programme to catch up on. Monday's fixture against Runcorn has been called off because Runcorn have a NPL cup tie against Matlock, but tomorrow Town go to Stafford. That game and next Saturday's away game at Altrincham should prove suitable testers for the Merthyr match.

Turner is also hoping to strengthen his squad with the signing of Andy Fisher from Bridlington Town. Fisher played for Goole two or three seasons ago before leaving to join Scarborough. He can play in any position. Turner is also hoping to sign Ian Walton on professional terms.

Sir — The increase in adverse publicity in respect of the "hooligan" element that attends Goole Town's home matches, is annoying to say the least. The regular attenders have until now tolerated in silence their misplaced enthusiasm, and I think that this element should now heed the threats.

Goole Town officials have match duties to perform and cannot apply themselves wholly to ejecting undisciplined. This leaves the alternatives of hiring extra police at considerable cost, and which the club can ill afford, or "match stewards" being appointed from volunteers. These stewards would be needed only for a short period, for once the pack has been sifted and some ground bans imposed, we supporters can settle down and watch Northern Premier football as we are accustomed to, without a policeman in sight.

FOOTBALL FAN

Goole.